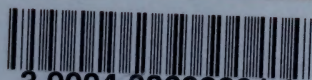


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CANADA AND THE NAVY

ANSWERS TO IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

WHAT HAVE AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND DONE?

Which Policy Should Canada Adopt?

THE CONSERVATIVE POLICY—An immediate expenditure of \$35,000,000 for three dreadnoughts as part of a permanent policy of centralization and contribution.

THE LIBERAL POLICY—A Canadian Naval Service in accordance with the unanimous resolution of the House of Commons, of March 1909.

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Question—

What have Australia and New Zealand done?

Answer—

Australia has established a naval service of her own. New Zealand pays for her defence by contributions to the British Admiralty.

Australia's present policy is the policy advocated by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Liberals for Canada and is the same as the policy outlined in the unanimous resolution of the House of Commons of March 1909, as the one Canada should adopt.

New Zealand's present policy is similar to the policy advocated by Mr. Borden and the Conservatives, but New Zealand's policy is better designed for the protection of coasts and trade routes than is Mr. Borden's.

Australia at one time paid for her defence by contributions but found this unsatisfactory, and decided to abandon the policy of contribution for a policy of a Naval service of her own.

Both Australia and New Zealand were paying by their contributions for ships to be used in the defence of Australia and New Zealand, and stationed in or near their waters, but these payments were only part of the expense of protecting their coasts. England had to pay out large sums in addition on ships and sailors to be kept stationed in the waters of Australia and New Zealand, and is still helping Australia and New Zealand in the defence of their own coasts. In addition, they share in common with Canada and the rest of the British Dominions, the general protection afforded by the British Navy wherever it may be.

There are no British ships in Canadian waters or near Canadian coasts, and England is not today paying out money for the defence of Canadian coasts. She did some years ago, but withdrew her ships from the Halifax Atlantic station in 1906 and the Esquimaux Pacific station in 1910, just as years before she withdrew the garrisons from Halifax, Quebec, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Esquimaux. Canada replaced these garrisons by troops of her own, the Liberal policy is to do the same with the ships, the Conservative policy is to pay contributions to the British Admiralty beginning with \$35,000,000

Contributions began in 1887 when Australia and New Zealand agreed to pay £126,000 per annum for five cruisers and two torpedo boats to be added by the British Government to the ships already in Australian waters. These ships were to be placed "within the limits of the Australian stations" and not to be removed except "with the consent of the Colonial government". In 1903 the amount of the contribution was raised to £240,000 per annum. It was an agreement for defence, so many ships for so much money.

In 1907 at the Colonial Conference in England **Mr. Deaken** the Prime Minister of Australia told the British government that the policy of contribution had proven a failure, and had given satisfaction neither to the Admiralty or the Commonwealth.

In 1909, Australia decided to stop contributing and to enter on the organization of a Naval service of her own.

Australia undertook to begin a Naval service of her own at an Imperial Defence Conference held in London in 1909. At this Conference Canada also undertook, carrying out the unanimous resolution of the House of Commons of March 29th of that year, to begin a Naval service of her own. The British Admiralty and government approved of this plan, and saw no difficulties in the way of it being carried out.

Australia has pretty well completed her Naval service as originally undertaken, and has since made plans extending over twenty-three years for the enlargement of it.

On September 19th, 1911 His Majesty King George V, conferred on the Australian service the title of "Royal" and it is now known as "The Royal Australian Navy".

Canada made a good beginning with her service, having established a government department of Naval Service, purchased training ships, opened a Naval college, and called for tenders for the construction of the necessary ships. But for the elections of September 1911, contracts would have been nearly completed by now. The tenders submitted were from several of the best firms in the world, and all were for the building of the ships in Canada.

The Australian Act was passed November 25th, 1910, and is known as the Naval Defence Act 1910.

The Canadian Act was passed March 4th, 1910 and is known as the Naval Service Act 1910.

New Zealand undertook the construction of a dreadnought in 1909, this ship to be part of the Royal Navy, but the Act which provided for this, contained the stipulation that it was for "the defence of your Majesty's Dominions," and it was understood it was to belong to squadrons composed of other ships owned by England but stationed in or near New Zealand waters. New Zealand has since agreed that this Dreadnought may remain in the North Sea, but care has been taken to see that Britain at her expense maintains a much larger equivalent in the way of ships for defence of New Zealand in and about New Zealand waters.

Australia and New Zealand have never raised any question about having a voice in the issues that shape peace or war in the Empire. They have been content to look after the defence of their own part of the Empire. Australia began by paying for her defence by contribution, now she has a Naval service of her own. New Zealand pays for her defence by contribution.

Australia and New Zealand have seen no need of an "emergency policy" each has adopted a permanent policy for its own defence, Australia a permanent policy of Naval service, New Zealand a permanent policy of contribution.

Australia has not been regarded as disloyal or wanting independence or separation from England in starting a Naval service of her own. Why should any such motive be attributed to Canada?

Australia has been able to organize a Naval service and is progressing with the manning and maintaining of it. Why should not Canada be able to do the same. Australia, at the last census, had a population of 4,918,707, Canada, a population of 7,204,838. Canada is larger in extent of territory, resources, money, men, and experience. Will it be said that what Australia can do successfully, Canada cannot do?

Australia entered upon her Naval service on the understanding Canada would do the same, does not Canada owe something in the way of keeping faith with a sister Dominion?

Mr. Borden in 1910 strongly endorsed the Australian policy of a Naval service, and condemned the policy of contribution which he rightly said had proven a failure in Australia. Why does he change? The Nationalists and the Jingo Imperialists are the explanation.

The Admiralty Memorandum of November 1912 says Great Britain could without courting disaster at home send ships "to unite with the Royal Australian Navy and the British squadrons in China and the Pacific for the defence of British Columbia, Australia and New Zealand."

Is it not about time Canadians should commence a "Royal Canadian Navy" when the British Admiralty tell them that they are dependent on "The Royal Australian Navy" for the defence of one of their Provinces?

What has become of Canada as the first of the Dominions, when she has to look to a sister Dominion for her defence?

If a Naval service of her own has proven better to Australia, than a policy of contribution is the same not likely to be true of Canada as well?

Will Canadians say that what Australia has been able to do in less than four years, Canada is unable to undertake?

For a detailed account of what Australia and New Zealand have done the reader is referred to pamphlet No. 9, entitled "Australia and New Zealand, methods of Defence."

Copies of this leaflet and pamphlet No. 9 may be had on applying to the Central Liberal Information Office, Ottawa, Canada.

